

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**Private Land/Public Wildlife Council**  
**Adopted June 15, 2004**

*STAFF NOTE: The PL/PW Council has adopted the following twelve draft recommendations, and will accept public comment through August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Comments can be submitted electronically through website [www.fwp.state.mt.us/hunting/plpw](http://www.fwp.state.mt.us/hunting/plpw) or in writing to: Alan Charles, Coordinator of Landowner/Sportsman Relations, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620.*

**PROGRAM RE-AUTHORIZATION**

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #1: Re-authorize existing program by repealing sunset provisions attached to program statutes and assure continuation of a citizens' review committee.**

Existing program includes the following:

- 1) statutes authorizing FWP to administer hunter management/hunting access programs;
- 2) three sources of existing funding for hunting access programs, including but not limited to:
  - a. variable-priced outfitter-sponsored B10 and B11 licenses;
  - b. resident and nonresident Hunting Access Enhancement Fees;
  - c. \$55 of the \$110 nonresident upland bird license;

*Rationale:*

- *Existing program has proven popular and successful, based on survey data and landowner, hunter, and department participation.*
- *It is the intent of the Council to support FWP in enhancing and improving the hunting access programs.*

**FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

*The Council developed the following 5 recommendations as new sources of additional funding:*

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #2: FWP should create a "Montana Access Partners" decal, made available through voluntary purchase at an amount of \$10 annually, with revenue dedicated to helping fund access programs;**

*Rationale:*

- *Provides affordable opportunity for voluntary funding source by interested individuals;*
- *Provides a visible symbol of support for hunting access programs;*

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #3: FWP should establish a trust fund, which could perhaps be administered through the FWP Foundation, providing for voluntary donations with the interest income dedicated to helping fund hunting access programs.**

*Rationale:*

- *Provides an economic incentive for larger contributions by individuals or corporate sponsors through tax and estate planning benefits;*
- *Provides an additional voluntary opportunity for partnership in continuing the success of hunting access programs;*

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #4: FWP should create a Big Game Super Tag program, with unlimited chances sold for a special tag, one each for moose, sheep, goat, elk, and deer, in a lottery-type system which provides for random selection of the permit recipients, with proceeds from the sales dedicated to helping fund the hunting access programs.**

*Rationale:*

- *Patterned after successful programs in other states;*
- *Provides significant funding without a substantial contribution from any one source;*

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #5: FWP should create a new category of license, a Landowner-Sponsored B-10 Elk/Deer Combination License, subject to the following provisions**

- **No more than 500 licenses created; licenses do not count against the 17,000 limit;**
- **Licenses are non-transferable;**
- **No landowner may sponsor more than 2 hunters; landowners must designate hunters in advance of license being issued;**
- **License sells for same price as same type license in general category;**
- **Landowner must enter into contractual public hunting access agreement with FWP for eligibility to sponsor hunters;**
- **Net proceeds will be earmarked for hunting access programs;**
- **Use of the license restricted to the sponsoring landowner's deeded land and interior inholdings of state and federal land where the sponsoring landowner has exclusive authority to grant access;**

*Rationale:*

- *Provides an incentive to involve all landowners in hunting access programs;*
- *Opportunity to increase hunting access to private and isolated public lands;*

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #6: Only if FWP determines it is economically feasible, sale of advertising in the Hunting Access Guides should be considered a possible source of revenue for funding the hunting access programs.**

*Rationale:*

- *Proposal may allow Department to offset some administrative costs;*
- *FWP is currently authorized to use advertising in Department publications;*

### **AFFECTING THE EXISTING BLOCK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #7: Allow nonresident cooperators to receive complimentary license AND compensation.** (*currently nonresident cooperators are eligible to receive complimentary license OR compensation, but not both*).

*Rationale:*

- *Provides greater equity in compensation to cooperators;*
- *Provides additional landowner incentive to participate in hunting access programs;*

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #8: Allow Block Management Cooperator eligible to receive complimentary license to designate immediate family member or an employee who is employed by such owner or owners as a ranch manager or in a similar capacity to receive the complimentary license instead.** (*currently only cooperators are eligible to receive complimentary license*).

*Rationale:*

- *Provides additional landowner incentive to participate in hunting access programs;*
- *Responds to cooperator requests;*

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #9: FWP should continue to improve and standardize BMA maps, incorporating landowner input for increased accuracy.**

*Rationale:*

- *Addresses problems with trespass;*
- *Responds to hunter/landowner requests;*

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #10: Remove restrictions on impact payments for species/season restrictions under certain wildlife management situations**

*Rationale:*

- *Provides more flexibility in the program;*
- *Addresses wildlife management issues;*

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #11: FWP should hire more game wardens and hunting access technicians, with duties assigned specifically to provide better patrol, management, and enrollment of properties in Block Management.**

*Rationale:*

- *Responds to landowner and hunter requests;*
- *Enhances overall program administration and stability;*

**OTHER PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS**

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #12: Re-authorize FWP Private Land Fishing Access Program.**

*Rationale:*

- *Existing program is successful and has potential to expand fishing access opportunities;*
- *It is the intent of the Council to support FWP in enhancing and improving the fishing access program.*